

Why Portland just isn't big enough for

'Portlandia'

► Carrie Brownstein and Fred Armisen on trying to reach audiences, on knowing what to do (and what not to do) with recurring characters and on staying true to themselves ► A look at the colorful guest stars who have populated this strange place {pages 08-10}

local

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Fire breaks out at home of suspect in New Year's death

► Kamonne Jordan, 18, arrested in connection with murder of 16-year-old ► Fire officials have deemed blaze 'suspicious' ► Neighbors feared retaliatory violence

As officials prepare to push their crime-fighting efforts into full gear for 2013, an 18-year-old has been charged with allegedly shooting this year's first homicide victim, according to police.

Kamonne Jordan, 18, lived on the 5600 block of Carpenter Street, where 16-year-old Jaymire Rustin was killed in the early hours of Jan. 1.

Jordan was arrested yesterday and charged today in connection with Rustin's death. Authorities said the violence was sparked by an argument.

In a strange twist, Jordan's house caught fire around 1:30 a.m. this morning in a blaze investigators have deemed "suspicious."

One woman was hospitalized for smoke inhalation, according to fire officials. Police said no other injuries were reported.

Jordan is charged with murder, reckless endangerment and firearms offenses, court documents show.

His preliminary hearing has been set for Jan. 16.

Investigators said they do not yet know whether the fire was related to Rustin's homicide or Jordan's arrest. Residents of the block on Wednesday expressed

"The most serious problem facing the city of Philadelphia is the proliferation and availability of these illegal weapons."

NUTTER

► Memorial posters and candles were left near the house where the city's first murder victim was gunned down this week. It is the same house that caught fire Thursday morning.

'One too many'

Officials on Thursday spoke out about 2012's homicide rate, which was the highest since Mayor Michael Nutter took office in 2008.

Crime overall actually dropped, including shootings, but more of those shootings were fatal. The statistic has been attributed to the proliferation of firearms, especially

fears of retaliatory violence following the crime and begged for officials to address the availability of firearms on the streets.

Quoted

"Murder, however, continues to be a problem, with seven more homicides recorded over last year. One murder is one too many."

RAMSEY

high-powered assault rifles and those with high-capacity magazines.

"2012 recorded the lowest number of shooting victims in more than a decade, and we saw a drop of 4 percent in [violent and property] crime," Commissioner Charles Ramsey said in a statement. "Murder, however, continues to be a problem, with seven more homicides recorded over last year. One murder is one too many."

"The most serious problem facing the city of Philadelphia is the proliferation and availability of these illegal weapons,"

Mayor Michael Nutter said in statement. "We need additional flexibility to target and remove them from our streets. I

By the numbers

9%

► Nine percent fewer people were shot in 2012 than in 2011, though homicides rose more than 2 percent.

4%

► Violent and property crimes dropped 4 percent in 2012 from 2011, according to a statement from Commissioner Charles Ramsey.

intend to step up our efforts locally and you will hear from us about additional proposed efforts to address this issue at the city, the state and the federal level."

He said new measures will be announced soon in addition to a 12-point crime-fighting plan the city unveiled a year ago that included cash incentives for public cooperation, a text hotline for tips, additional police classes, more funding for victim and witness assistance programs and a video surveillance partnership with local businesses.



Alex Wigglesworth
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In the news

Girl succumbs to gunshot wounds

LANCASTER COUNTY. A 10-year-old Pennsylvania girl who on New Year's Eve was struck in the head by a stray bullet, apparently from celebratory gunfire, died on Thursday, according to a report from The Intelligencer Journal-Lancaster New Era.

Aaliyah Boyer was watching fireworks with



family members outside a Maryland home when she collapsed, police told the paper. Those accompanying her thought she had hit her head and did not realize she was shot until medics arrived.

Boyer was rushed to Christiana Hospital in

Newark, Del., and later transferred to A.I. Dupont Children's Hospital in Wilmington. She was on life support before succumbing to her injuries Thursday morning.

Despite multiple interviews with nearby residents, police have not yet discovered who fired the fatal bullet. **METRO**

Homicides up to five as of Jan. 3

PHILADELPHIA. Two people were shot Wednesday night — one of them fatally — and investigators discov-

ered a body inside a burning car, bringing this year's homicide count to five as of Jan. 3.

A 42-year-old man was shot in the thigh and leg around 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, reportedly inside a minivan, then dumped onto the 6600 block of North 12th Street in East Oak Lane, police said. The victim is hospitalized in critical condition at Albert Einstein Medical Center.

Firefighters extinguishing a burning van on the 3300 block of North 19th Street in Tioga shortly after

11:15 p.m. found a man's body in the backseat, according to investigators.

Police said the victim, who has not yet been identified, was bound with duct tape around his hands and feet. His cause of death is not yet known.

Authorities were called to a homicide at Haddington Lane and Edgewood Street in Overbrook shortly before midnight.

A 30-year-old man was shot once in the head and died on the scene. He has not yet been identified.

METRO

Gaming gains

\$2.47B

Pennsylvania took in \$2.47 billion in slot-machine gaming revenue for 2012, a 2.7-percent rise from 2011's gross revenue. The figure marked the sixth year in a row gaming revenue has risen. Slot-machine tax dollars generated by SugarHouse, Philly's only casino, saw especially great gains, growing more than 11 percent. **METRO/AW**

Local tweet



"I feel like #AndyReid is gonna look thirty pounds heavier in Cheifs [sic] attire..."

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Union. Rally



► Local 22 President Bill Gault, right, stands with rally organizer John Fritz and Diane Neary, the mother of firefighter Lt. Robert Neary, who was killed in April battling a blaze.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Union calling on mayor to honor contract

Members of firefighters union Local 22 and their supporters held a rally on Thursday to once again call on Mayor Michael Nutter to honor the 2008 contract twice awarded to them through arbitration and once affirmed by a court ruling. As the city appeals the terms for a third time, the union this week began negotiating a new contract for the next four years. ● METRO/AW

News in brief

Charges dropped against alleged SEPTA shooter

PHILADELPHIA. Prosecutors on Thursday dropped charges against one of two brothers accused of shooting two people on a SEPTA el platform in December during an argument over a

Sixers game.

Eric Early, 17, who was arrested Dec. 17, will no longer face trial for attempted murder, assault and related offenses. Those charges were withdrawn during a status hearing on Thursday due to lack of evidence, according to court documents.

Early's 18-year-old

brother, Matthew, the alleged gunman who was arrested Dec. 30, remains jailed at the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility on \$5 million bail. He is still set to be tried on two counts each of attempted murder, aggravated assault, reckless endangerment and weapons charges. ● METRO

Fatal fire highlights need for additional outreach, education

- Kingsessing man killed in fast-moving blaze
- Couple was believed to be renovating home

Quoted

"People 50 and above, they took most of the punishment as related to fire deaths last year. We lost a lot people there."

AYERS

heating — those are places we walk in and say the risk for fires is tremendous."

He said the house had working smoke detectors that alerted the victim's wife, but her husband was still unable to make it to safety.

"He actually had a chance to get out," Ayers said. "She was out and she saw him coming down the stairs, and for some reason he went back inside. We're not sure why."

Fire fatalities are more prevalent in less wealthy neighborhoods where residents may lack the proper safety awareness and education. They're also more likely to take the lives of people aged 50 and older, according to Ayers.

The fire department is now focusing a great deal of energy on prevention and education, Ayers said Thursday.

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New Sandy Hook school opens

Twenty days after the massacre that left 20 first-graders and seven adults dead at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, plunging a rural New England town and the nation into grief, classes resumed on Thursday for the more than 400 students who lived through the harrowing assault.

Across Newtown's sprawling Sandy Hook neighborhood where the attack took place, children bundled boarded buses decked in their school colors for the seven-mile journey to their new school.

Chalk Hill Middle School, an unused school in the neighboring town of Monroe, was refurbished specifically for the students from Newtown and now bears a new but familiar name — Sandy Hook Elementary School. Students on packed buses waved at clusters of photographers, and TV cameras gathered at street corners along the bus route. Heightened security measures meant media was kept well away, but from a small plane above the new school, children getting off buses were seen running, hopping and skipping through the doors.

A steady stream of par-



► This sign welcoming children from Sandy Hook Elementary School sits on the road in Monroe, Conn., on Jan. 3.

Safest school

With safety foremost on the minds of parents and officials, the school has been outfitted with a new security system. Monroe Police Department officers were patrolling the grounds, and all outside doorways and sidewalks were under surveillance.

ents' cars were seen pulling up to drop students off at the main entrance, where they were greeted by a dark-suited

official.

Anca Roberto, 35, put her 5-year-old daughter, a kindergartner, on the bus not far from the old Sandy Hook school, which remains a bullet-riddled crime scene closed to everyone but police.

Roberto said she had been nervous about the return to school until Wednesday, when she and her daughter attended an open house at the new location. Her daughter was thrilled to find her cubby intact, moved from the old school, and she "screamed" when she saw her friends. **REUTERS**

Penn State has tough battle

Gov. faces obstacles

Penn St. lawsuit 'is a long shot'

PENNSYLVANIA. Targeting the National Collegiate Athletic Association may be popular politically where Penn State football is widely loved, but a federal court might rule that the state lacks standing to bring the lawsuit in the first place, experts said. The Republican governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett, said Wednesday that he would file a lawsuit to overturn NCAA punishments imposed on Penn State in the wake of the Sandusky scandal.

REUTERS



► Penn State spirit

Police have evidence



Accused rapists in India charged, victim's father calls for hanging

NEW DELHI. Five Indian men were formally charged in court on Thursday with the gang rape and murder of a physiotherapy student in a case that has generated widespread anger about the government's inability to prevent violence. The attack provoked furious protests close to the seat of government in New Delhi.

REUTERS

Actor dodges taxes

Russia awards citizenship to tax exile Depardieu

MOSCOW. Russian President Vladimir Putin has granted citizenship to Gerard Depardieu, the French movie star who is quitting his homeland to avoid a tax hike on the rich, the Kremlin said on Thursday. The actor bought a house across the border in Belgium last year to avoid a new tax rate for millionaires in France planned by Socialist President Francois Hollande but said he could also seek tax exile elsewhere. **REUTERS**



► Depardieu

In the news

Clinton plans to return to work

NEW YORK. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is resting at home in Chappaqua, N.Y., after being treated for a blood clot. She plans to return to her office next week,



► Hillary Clinton

the State Department said on Thursday.

Clinton, 65, has suffered a series of ailments over the last month including a stomach virus, a concussion and a blood clot in a vein behind her right ear. She was released from New York Presbyterian Hospital on Wednesday. **REUTERS**

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In the news

GETTY IMAGES



► The BP spill in 2010

Transocean to pay \$1.4B for role in gulf oil spill

WASHINGTON. Offshore rig contractor Transocean Ltd. has agreed to pay \$1.4 billion to settle U.S. government charges arising from BP Plc.'s massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

The settlement unveiled on Thursday by the Department of Justice includes \$1 billion in civil penalties and \$400 million in criminal penalties. The company had set aside

\$1.95 billion in potential losses related to the Macondo well disaster, including \$1.5 billion for its anticipated DoJ settlement.

Still to be reached is a Transocean settlement with the Macondo plaintiffs steering committee that represents more than 100,000 individuals and business owners claiming economic and medical damages from the spill.

UBS analyst Angie Sedita said the ultimate cost of Macondo to Transocean could end up being more than \$4 billion, including a deal with the plaintiffs that may take "years to resolve." Last year, BP reached an estimated \$7.8 billion deal to resolve its liability with the plaintiffs.

Shares of Transocean were up 7 percent at \$49.46 in afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange, while the cost of insuring Transocean debt fell sharply. **REUTERS**

SHAVING THE DOG

Column

TOM FOREMAN

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN



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CNN = POLITICS

My wife has announced her priorities for 2013, and the first item on the list is shaving the dog. We have a sheltie named Nola. She is a lovely critter, but in winter she drops her outer layers faster than Prince Harry in a pool hall. "She'll look like a whippet," I protested as Nola cowered, no doubt wondering why we were eyeing her so closely. "But I'm vacuuming up fur every 20 minutes," my wife replied. I said, "She'll be cold." She: "Buy her a sweater."

I should not be surprised. Big plans are in the air in D.C. right now. As often happens when a sitting president wins a second term, the Capitol crowd is heading into the New Year with many grand notions about addressing chronic problems. Massive schemes are in the works to deal with immigration, gun control, the debt ceiling, unemployment — and on and on the list goes. And the proponents of these plans, like my wife with her clippers, are all dreaming of grand "let's fix it once and for all" solutions.

That's not going to happen. At least history suggests it won't.

Why? Most problems in Washington, like puppies, start off small. They bounce around from one committee to the next.

They get chased down Congressional corridors, studied and debated. And they steadily grow, until by the time Congress decides to neuter them, they are big, fierce Malamutes which have no interest in a trip to the vet's office. To be sure, virtually every one of these big ticket issues being bandied about right now have been discussed by previous administrations and earlier Congresses, which found years ago that they were already too big to be corrected with one piece of sweeping legislation.

Which is why in the coming year voters may want to look not so much for big strides from Washington, as for small steps. Those get fewer headlines to be sure, but incremental improvements have a way of adding up against seemingly insurmountable problems. And shaving the dog is not always a solution.

— CNN's Tom Foreman is a regular on "AC360" / www.ac360.com and "The Situation Room."

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WEEKEND

► Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein on getting bigger and avoiding growing pains ► Why you can expect to see more of your favorite characters from the first two seasons and why you may find them in places outside of Oregon

MEGAN HOLMES / IFC



No sellouts

The bigger, the better

The night before this interview, we spotted Armisen at the 12.12.12 concert in Madison Square Garden, taking in some of the biggest acts in music. He says he is not at all like Spyke, that character of his who becomes enraged when somebody he doesn't approve of joins in on a trend.

"Even at my most punk, as a teenager, I embraced the biggest bands," he says. "I remember in high school, one of the biggest bands was The Police, and to me, I didn't care, and I never used the word 'sellout.' I loved The Police! I would love my Dead Kennedys and Bad Brains records, and at the same time I embraced going to see huge bands. I don't subscribe to any theory that 'big is a bad thing.' In fact, it's the opposite. It's great!"

Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein wanted to take the comic characters they developed in the first two seasons of sketch comedy show "Portlandia" someplace new.

Playing themselves, Armisen and Brownstein venture to Seattle to re-

cruit prospective Portland residents (and end up with Chloe Sevigny as a new roommate); as Toni and Candace, they investigate a negative review on Yelp, which requires them to actually leave their feminist bookstore. Even Spyke — Armisen's ever-cynical and hyper-local hipster bike messenger character — takes his crusade to "take back MTV" to New York City on Friday's premiere.

But Armisen and Brownstein say that putting their characters in different locales is only part of the new direction for "Portlandia."

"This year we were all about making it less conceptual and more about 'Who are these people?' and then 'Which of these scenarios do they lend themselves to?' like putting a handful of characters in conflict," says Brownstein.

Quoted

"I'm really not totally interested in crowd response as a means of gauging what to do next, creatively." BROWNSTEIN

It seems like "Portlandia" itself is in conflict. What began as a niche sketch show that skewered a city known for its quiet eccentricities has struck a universal chord. From the Season 1 launch to the Season 2 premiere, the show saw a 39 percent increase in viewers. Not bad for a show that's just as apt to cast indie rock musicians as comedic actors. In between seasons 2 and 3, they toured a live show that featured as many earnest musical performances as it did comedy bits. Armisen acknowledges that the show has a bit of an identity crisis, but he says it's liberating.

"I want to reach many people," he says. "It's a comedy show, and I guess technically it's a variety show because there's music in it. And so I have no limitations on it."

But Armisen bristles at any insinuation that "Portlandia" is a place where he can put ideas that would be "too weird" for that other comedy show he's on, "Saturday Night Live."

"There are things on 'Portlandia' that are broad," he argues. "It's hard to classify what something is, but 'SNL' historically has done some weird stuff and I would say that that show has allowed me to do some very weird things that I can't believe

I've gotten away with."

Brownstein says they have focused on certain characters throughout the seasons not because they're reliable for audiences, but because of the possibilities they present.

"I'm really not totally interested in crowd response as a means of gauging what to do next, creatively. ... You can just really go down a rabbit hole with that, like trying to think from a marketing or network standpoint," she says. "It kind of has to stem from the characters that we feel the most invested in."



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Tune in

► **"Portlandia"** premieres Friday at 10:30 p.m. on IFC.





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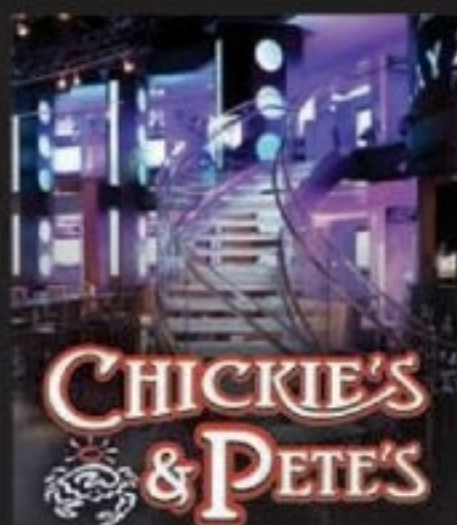


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The citizens of Portlandia welcome you

► Over three seasons, Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein have invited plenty of their friends into the land of knot stores and retired 20-somethings ► A look back of some of the city's most accomplished 'residents'



	Actors	Musicians	'SNL' cast members	Notable personalities
Season 1	Steve Buscemi, Kyle MacLachlan, Aubrey Plaza , Edie McClurg, Kumail Nanjiani, Selma Blair, Heather Graham, Nick Kroll	Aimee Mann, Sarah McLachlan, Jenny Conlee (The Decemberists), Colin Meloy (The Decemberists), James Mercer (The Shins, Broken Bells), Corin Tucker (Sleater-Kinney)	Jason Sudeikis	Sam Adams (mayor of Portland), Gus Van Sant (director)
Season 2	Kyle MacLachlan, James Callis ("Battlestar Gallactica"), Jeff Goldblum, Kumail Nanjiani, Edward James Olmos , Shohreh Aghdashloo, Jack McBrayer, Sean Hayes, Amber Tamblyn, Ed Begley Jr., Tim Robbins	Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam), Isaac Brock (Modest Mouse), Annie Clark (St. Vincent), Joanna Newsom, Robin Pecknold (Fleet Foxes), Johnny Marr (The Smiths), Steve Jones (The Sex Pistols)	Andy Samberg, Kristen Wiig	Sam Adams (mayor of Portland), Ronald D. Moor (producer of "Battlestar Gallactica"), Miranda July (conceptual artist, director, actress), LaMarcus Aldridge (Portland Trailblazers basketball team member), Penny Marshall (director, actress), Greg Louganis (Olympic diver)
Season 3	Chloe Sevigny , Roseanne Barr, Rose Byrne, Juliette Lewis, Kyle MacLachlan, Jeff Goldblum, Kumail Nanjiani, Matt Berry ("The IT Crowd"), Jim Gaffigan, Matt Lucas ("Little Britain"), Patton Oswalt, George Wendt	The Dirty Projectors, J Mascis (Dinosaur Jr.)	Bill Hader, Bobby Moynihan	Martina Navratilova (tennis champion), Kurt Loder (former MTV News presenter), Matt Pinfield (former MTV VJ), Tabitha Soren (former MTV News presenter) ● HEIDI PATALANO



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3 Things to know about 'Downton Abbey' Season 3

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► "Downton Abbey" Season 3 premieres Sunday at 9 p.m. on PBS.

► **After World War I, England enters a period of recovery:** In Season 2, the lords and ladies of Downton Abbey — and their loyal servants — had survived the Great War, as well as the Spanish flu pandemic. "The war brought a tremendous disruption to England and took many, many families of all sorts," says "Downton" creator Julian Fellowes, whose characters were nonetheless not immune to the casualties of war. He explains, "There were those few years when people were trying to decide: 'Was the world going to be the same as it was before? Was the future going to be completely different?' And that's really the theme of the series."

► **The fate of Downton Abbey is in question:** A financial crisis at the hands of Robert, Earl of

Grantham (Hugh Bonneville), potentially spells the end of his great house, his family's standing and servants' livelihoods. "[After the war], it was a toss-up in many [estate-owning] families as to whether or not it was worth the struggle to go on," Fellowes says.

As the upstairs/downstairs way of life for this entitled British clan and their employees becomes more difficult to maintain, the American Cora, Countess of Grantham

(Elizabeth McGovern), will prove to be the most adept in adjusting to the changing times.

"Cora is less afraid of the future than Robert is," Fellowes says. "And now you'll start to see more and more of that because she's less afraid of expressing [her American sensibilities]. If anyone understands the world that's coming, it's Cora."



Amber Ray
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Cora's mother is a force to be reckoned with

Martha Levinson arrives from Long Island for the wedding of her granddaughter, Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery), and long-lost Downton heir, Matthew Crawley (Dan

Stevens). Martha has the money to save the estate, but an American attitude that clashes with the old-school Granthams. Shirley MacLaine brings a steely wit to the role, which does not seem like such a stretch for the acclaimed actress.

"It was an extraordinary experience for me in stami-

na and in work ethic, because we were shooting outside in the rain and in the wind with our formal gear on and nobody seemed to notice," MacLaine recalls. "So I quickly stepped right in there and acted like I didn't notice either. I had a fabulous time. I will never forget it."

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BORN TO DIE

► **Trey Songz and Alexandra Daddario, stars of 'Texas Chainsaw 3D,' tell us how they survived shooting a punishing bloodfest**

Alexandra Daddario and Trey Songz, the stars of the new "Texas Chainsaw 3D," talk to us about joining the long-running horror franchise, the perils of being in a scary movie and how their opinions of chain saws have changed.

This is not the first "Texas Chainsaw" movie. How many of the previous films have you seen?

Trey Songz: I've seen three.

Alexandra Daddario: I've seen two. I think Trey is more of a horror fan than I am. I get scared really easily. But I watched the Jessica Biel version and the original before I did this movie.



Being a horror fan, what's your dream way to get offed in a horror movie?

TS: I mean, the ultimate thing in a horror movie is to make it through, so. [Laughs] But my dream way to get done in? I don't know. In "Saw" there were so many creative ways to die. That's what I really liked about the film, that it could actually happen if somebody was that crazy. But I haven't dreamed of ways of dying recently.

Acting in a horror movie, you're doing a lot of running and screaming. How exhausting is that compared to a less horrific movie?

AD: Definitely, being an actress, part of what you have to do is try to stay in

Quoted

"I think I've always probably been scared of chain saws, but I've never really encountered a chain saw until this movie."

DADDARIO

as best shape as you can. I knew that I was going to a very hot place — we shot in Louisiana in July and August, so I prepared. I did hot yoga and I sort of tried to prepare so I wouldn't pass out on set, and I made it through.

Having done this movie now, would you say you're both more or less afraid of chain saws?



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▶ Alexandra Daddario

TS: I would say chain saws are petrifying.

AD: Yes. I think I've always probably been scared of chainsaws, but I've never really encountered a chain saw until this movie.

TS: It was like a whole row of them on set. ... I crept off into the trailer that you're not supposed to be in and touched them, and they were kind of like not dull. [Laughs]

AD: Yeah, they're real chain saws.

Ned Ehrbar
METRO WORLD NEWS

Reviews

'Promised Land'

Director: Gus Van Sant

Cast: Matt Damon, John Krasinski, Frances McDormand

Rating: R

Grade: ⓂⓂⓂⓂⓂ

"Promised Land" is one of those message movies you know is going to end with a big speech, so you just hope it's an entertaining ride until the final oration. In this case, the movie let its sense of earnestness overpower the entertainment. It has good, likable actors in a story that might have been better served in documentary form, rather than the contrived drama presented here.

It is the kind of formulaic filmmaking that kept the joy away. Maybe they fell into formula to make people feel comfortable with the amount of info they're being fed. It's hard to make talk of water table pollution dramatic, and while "Promised Land" makes an attempt by giving much of the heavy lifting to Hal Holbrook, the Grand Old Man of the cast, it's still only as dramatic as a high



▶ "The Impossible" is a rush until it washes out.



▶ "Promised Land"

FOCUS FEATURES

school science class lecture.

● **RICHARD CROUSE**

'The Impossible'

Director: Juan Antonio Bayona

Cast: Naomi Watts, Ewan McGregor, Tom Holland

Rating: PG-13

Grade: ⓂⓂⓂⓂⓂ

After a tsunami wipes out their Thai resort, an English

family are separated from one another with Maria (Watts) and her oldest son left wondering if her husband Henry (McGregor) and their two youngest sons are still alive. Based on a true story, director Juan Antonio Bayona ("The Orphanage") creates some of the year's most viscerally thrilling scenes during the initial tidal wave and its immediate aftermath. But the film peaks early and the ensuing search for family members and flip-flopping points-of-view prove anticlimactic — and, for the cynics out there, a tad maudlin. Nevertheless, McGregor, Watts and Tom Holland, who plays their oldest son, do their best with the material.

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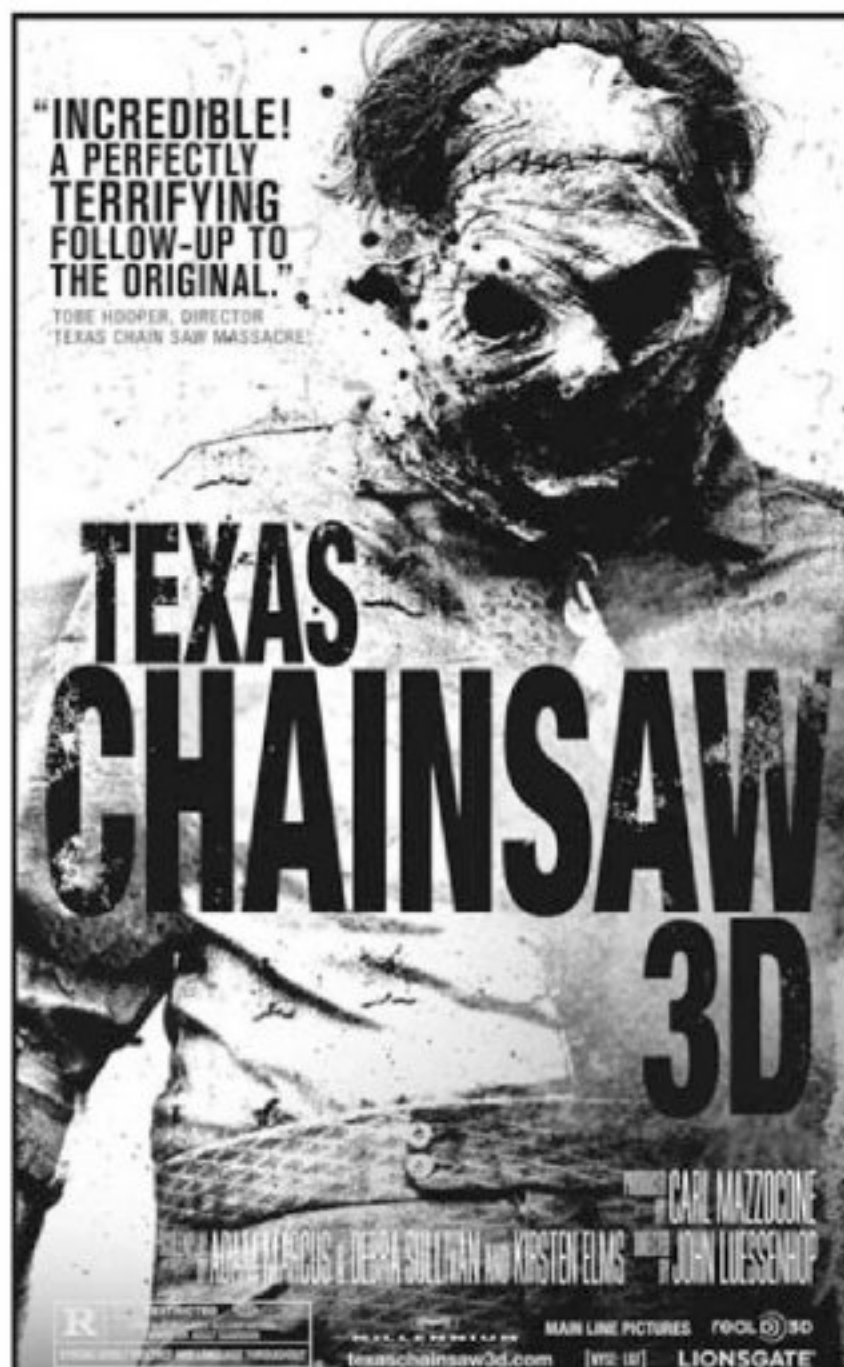
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Eating right in 2013

► You start each New Year by swearing off fries and beer, but it's hard sticking with a healthy habit when you can't figure out a guilt-free, tasty meal ► Consider this easy dish your new go-to

Weekend recipe

Spicy Thai Coconut Quinoa

There are a bunch of ingredients, but don't let that fool you — this dish is still simple enough for a weeknight dinner, and you won't use every pan in the house.

The key is to prepare the ingredients as you cook: The spicy peanut dressing comes together in one minute — and while the quinoa simmers, cut the tofu and vegetables (which take a few minutes to cook).

Then toss everything together for an easy, healthy dinner or lunch for work.



► Here's your new guilt-free go-to.

COURTESY OF CHOW

Dressing ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups fresh cilantro (from about 1/2 bunch), long, thick stems removed
- 3/4 cup roasted, unsalted peanuts
- 1/3 cup Sriracha sauce
- 2 tablespoons finely grated lime zest (from about three medium limes)
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lime juice (from about three medium limes)
- 1/4 cup toasted sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon packed dark brown sugar
- 2 medium garlic cloves
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt

For the quinoa:

- 2 cups quinoa, any color or variety
- 1 (14-ounce) can unsweetened coconut milk
- 1 1/2 cups vegetable stock or low-sodium vegetable broth
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more as needed
- 1 (14- to 16-ounce) package firm tofu
- 2 medium carrots
- 1 medium broccoli head (about 1 pound)
- 4 medium scallions
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

Directions:

1 Place all of the dressing ingredients in a food processor fitted with a blade attachment. Process until smooth, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed, about one minute; set aside.

2 Rinse the quinoa in a strainer under cold water until the water runs clear. Place in a large saucepan; add the coconut milk, vegetable broth and measured salt; stir to combine. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the white outer casings on the quinoa have popped, revealing translucent little beads, about 15 to 20 minutes.

3 Meanwhile, line a large plate with several layers of paper towels. Drain the tofu, cut it into large dice, and place it in a single layer on the paper-towel-lined plate; set aside. Trim the carrots and cut them into 1/4-inch-thick rounds; set aside. Trim the stem of the broccoli to 1/2 inch and cut the head into 1-inch florets; set aside. Thinly slice the white and light green parts of the scallions; set aside.

4 When the quinoa is ready, remove it to a large serving bowl and set aside. Wash the saucepan, fill it with water and season generously with salt. Cover with a tight-fitting lid and bring to a boil over high heat.

5 Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large nonstick frying pan over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add the tofu and cook without stirring until the bottoms are golden brown, about four minutes. (While the

To garnish

- Coarsely chopped fresh cilantro
- Coarsely chopped roasted, unsalted peanuts
- Sliced scallions

tofu is cooking, line the plate you drained it on with fresh paper towels.) Flip and cook until the other sides are golden brown, about three to four minutes more. Using a slotted spoon, remove to the paper-towel-lined plate and season with salt; set aside.

6 Add the carrots to the boiling water and cook until crisp-tender, about two minutes. Using a slotted spoon, remove them to the bowl with the quinoa. Return the water to a boil, add the broccoli and cook until crisp-tender, about three minutes. Drain in a colander and place with the quinoa and carrots.

7 Add the cooked tofu, dressing and scallions to the bowl and stir to combine. Garnish with additional cilantro, peanuts, and scallions before serving.

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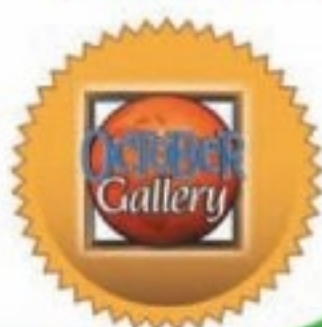
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LES MISERABLES (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:45, 11:00, 12:00, 1:15, 2:30, 3:30, 4:45, 6:00, 7:00, 8:15, 9:30, 10:30, 11:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:45-11:00-12:00-1:15-2:30-3:30-4:45-6:00-7:00-8:15-9:30-10:30. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) 11:05, 4:35, 9:55. RealD 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:20, 1:40, 4:50, 8:05, 11:10. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-1:40-4:50-8:05. Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LES TROYENS (NR) Sat 12:00
MONSTERS, INC. 3D (G) Fri 11:35, 2:05, 4:40. RealD 3D; Sat 2:05-4:40. RealD 3D; Sun 11:35-2:05-4:40. RealD 3D
NOT FADE AWAY (R) 11:20, 2:10, 5:05, 7:45, 10:35. C INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) Fri and Sat 10:15, 11:10, 12:45, 1:45, 3:15, 4:15, 5:45, 6:45, 8:20, 9:15, 10:50, 11:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-11:10-12:45-1:45-3:15-4:15-5:45-6:45-8:20-9:15. Digital Presentation
PROMISED LAND (R) Fri and Sat 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35, 12:10. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:15-1:50-4:25-7:00-9:35. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) 2:00. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D

(PG) 7:35. RealD 3D
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) Fri 11:20, 2:35, 5:25, 8:10, 10:55. Digital Presentation; Sat 8:10-10:55. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:20-2:35-5:25-8:10. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) 1:05, 7:10. Digital Presentation
TEXAS CHAINSAW 3D (R) Fri 10:05, 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05, 12:30. RealD 3D; Sat 10:00-12:25-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:05-12:30. RealD 3D; Sun 10:00-12:25-2:50-5:15-7:40-

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CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: WORLDS AWAY 3D (PG) 1:00, 6:15. CC-Closed Captions; RealD 3D
FLIGHT (R) Fri 3:15, 8:30. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:00-3:15-8:30. Digital Presentation
THE IMPOSSIBLE (PG-13) 11:15, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30. C INDEPENDENT; CC-Closed Captions; Digital Presentation
JACK REACHER (PG-13) Fri 12:45, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. Digital

Digital Presentation; Sat 10:30-1:00-3:30-5:50-6:50-8:15-9:15-10:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30-11:30-1:00-1:50-3:30-4:30-5:50-6:50-8:15-9:15-10:30. Digital Presentation
PROMISED LAND (R) 11:45, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00. Digital Presentation
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) 12:00, 3:05, 6:10, 9:30. Digital Presentation
THIS IS 40 (R) Fri 1:15, 4:15, 7:15.

9:55-2:55-7:55. RealD 3D

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RIO (G) Sat 11:00

JOURNEY (PG-13) Fri 3:30. Digital Projection; Sat and Sun 12:00. Digital Projection
JACK REACHER (PG-13) Fri 4:30, 7:30, 10:00. 35MM; Sat 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:00. 35MM; Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30. 35MM
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) Fri 3:45, 6:45, 9:15. 35MM; Sat 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:15. 35MM; Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45. 35MM
THIS IS 40 (R) Fri 4:15, 7:15, 10:00; Sat 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:00.; Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15.

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157 Bala Avenue
LES MISERABLES (PG-13) Fri 3:00, 6:20, 9:40. Digital Projection; Sat 12:00-3:00-6:20-9:40. Digital Projection; Sun 12:00-3:00-6:20. Digital Projection
LINCOLN (PG-13) Fri 3:15, 6:30, 9:35; Sat 12:15-3:15-6:30-9:35.; Sun 12:15-3:15-6:30.
PROMISED LAND (R) Fri 3:30, 6:45, 9:30; Sat 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:30.; Sun 12:30-3:30-6:45.

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215-886-9800
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LES MISERABLES (PG-13) 1:30, 5:00, 8:30

Narberth Stadium 2

610-667-0115
129 North Narberth Avenue
DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) Fri 3:05, 6:45, 10:20. DLP-Digital Projection; Sat 11:30-3:05-6:45-10:20. DLP-Digital Projection; Sun 11:30-3:05-6:45. DLP-Digital Projection
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) Fri 3:15, 6:55, 10:20. DLP-Digital Projection; Sat 11:40-3:15-6:55-10:20. DLP-Digital Projection; Sun 11:40-3:15-6:55. DLP-Digital Projection

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CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: WORLDS AWAY (PG) 4:25
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: WORLDS AWAY 3D (PG) 1:50, 6:55, 9:20
DABANGG 2 (NR) 9:05
DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) Fri and Sat 12:00, 12:50, 3:30, 4:20, 7:10, 8:00, 10:40; Sun 12:00-12:50-3:30-4:20-7:10-8:00-10:40.
THE GUILT TRIP (PG-13) 2:05, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) 12:05, 3:50, 7:35
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 1:55, 6:25, 10:00
HYDE PARK ON HUDSON (R) 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45
THE IMPOSSIBLE (PG-13) 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:35
JACK REACHER (PG-13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:50, 10:50
LES MISERABLES (PG-13) 11:55, 12:40, 2:35, 3:25, 4:10, 6:20, 7:00, 7:55, 9:50, 10:30
LIFE OF PI (PG) 6:35, 9:40
LINCOLN (PG-13) 2:40, 6:10, 9:25
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LES TROYENS (NR) Sat 12:00
MONSTERS, INC. 3D (G) 4:50
MONSTERS, INC. 3D (G) 2:15, 7:15, 9:55
NOT FADE AWAY (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:20
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) 1:05, 3:40, 6:30, 9:30
PROMISED LAND (R) 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 10:10
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) Fri 1:00, 3:35, 6:15, 9:00; Sat 6:45-9:00.; Sun 1:00-3:35-6:15-9:00.
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 2:10, 4:55, 7:45, 10:35
SKYFALL (PG-13) 6:50, 10:15
TEXAS CHAINSAW 3D (R) 12:45, 3:10, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45. RealD 3D
THIS IS 40 (R) 12:30, 3:45, 7:05, 10:25
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) 12:55, 4:05
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 1:10, 3:55

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10:05. RealD 3D
THIS IS 40 (R) 10:30, 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:20. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) 4:20. Digital Presentation
ZERO DARK THIRTY (R) Fri and Sat 9:30, 11:30, 1:00, 3:00, 4:30, 6:30, 8:00, 10:00, 11:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30-11:30-1:00-3:00-4:30-6:30-8:00-10:00. Digital Presentation

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Presentation; Sat and Sun 9:55-12:45-4:00-7:00-10:00. Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LES TROYENS (NR) Sat 12:00
NOT FADE AWAY (R) Fri 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30. C INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) Fri 10:30, 11:30, 1:00, 1:50, 3:30, 4:30, 5:50, 6:50, 8:15, 9:15, 10:30.

Digital Presentation; 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video; Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:15. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2 (PG-13) 10:45, 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45. CC-Closed Captions; Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) 12:25, 5:25, 10:25. Digital Presentation
WRECK-IT RALPH IN 3D (PG) Fri 2:55, 7:55. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun

SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) Fri and Sat 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30; Sun 1:15-4:00-7:00.

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DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) Fri 4:15, 7:45. 35MM; Sat and Sun 12:30-4:15-7:45. 35MM
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) Fri 7:00; Sat and Sun 3:30-7:00.
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED



The feed ...

► Checking in with The Word's readers to see about their New Year's resolutions.

@BCMollySaidSo
My resolution is to make it into tomorrow's paper. I guess the only way to do that is to lie. My resolution: Go to the gym.

@cardiff_flyer
To banish Jose Cuervo every weeknight, to publish a short story, and to tell my wife and daughter "I love you" everyday.

@lisajablom
stop eating snacks after dinner and save more money (duh...)

@1stMorningRead
To Cut My Email Inbox down from 4,896 Unread Messages To 00

@KEArion
Where to start?! Read Anna Karenina, quit online dating, write a blog, start composting...

@Bosox428Brian
not going to buy any more pet camels. 7 is enough

@Everlong13
My New Years Resolution was to not have a New Years Resolution. As you might have guessed, I'm caught in quite a paradox.



THE WORD



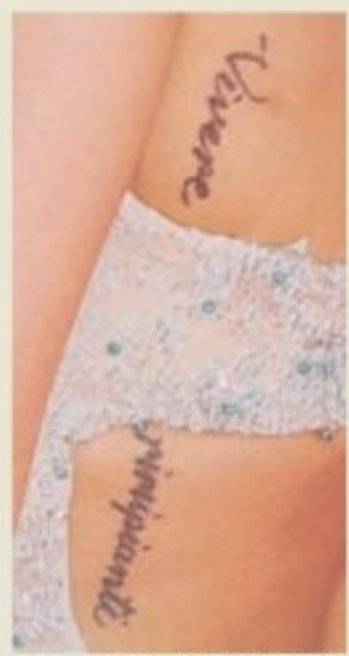
Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip [@dorothyatmetro](#) [dorothy.robinson@metro.us](#)

A roundup of regrettable celebrity permanent ink

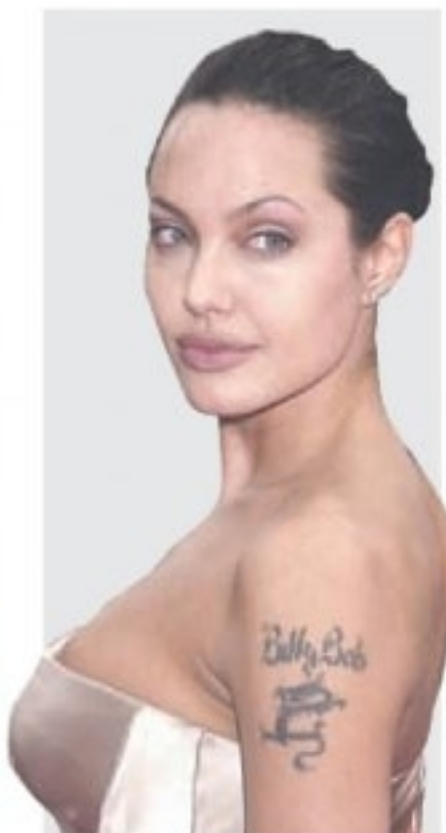
In honor of the news that Lil' Wayne got "BAKED" tattooed above his right eye (Aren't you glad he doesn't

have a real job? Can you imagine him sitting in front of HR?), The Word is compiling some of the worst celebrity tattoos.

Hayden Panettiere's side tattoo "Vivere senza rimpianti" should read "to live without regrets" in Italian. Sadly, the Italian word for "regrets" is "rimpianti," meaning her tat is misspelled. So, yeah, about that whole "living without regrets" thing ...



GREGG DEGUIRE/WIREIMAGE



GREGG DEGUIRE/WIREIMAGE

Perhaps the most famous of bad celebrity tattoo decisions was when **Angelina Jolie** thought getting her then-husband's name in huge letters on her arm was smart. "Billy Bob" is now gone from her arm — and public consciousness.



L. COHEN/WIREIMAGE FOR GQ MAGAZINE

Steve-O's back features a giant tattoo of his face as he gives a thumbs-up, which — never mind, that's pretty awesome.

Scarlett Johansson got this wrist tattoo last year. It has "I Love NY" written inside the "charm." At this point in her career, can't she afford a bracelet that's removable?



GETTY IMAGES



JUN SATO/WIREIMAGE

Lindsay Lohan's "shh-hh" finger tattoo isn't really working for her, is it?



GETTY IMAGES

Megan Fox used to have a huge tattoo of Marilyn Monroe's face on her inner arm, but she wised up and had it removed this year. "It's traumatic and it's incredibly painful. They can't numb it enough to make the pain go away," she told Jay Leno on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" in February about the removal process.

Talking points

Poll: 'Hunger Games' and 'Hobbit' are most-anticipated films of 2013

This year will look a lot like 2012 at the box office, with "The Hunger Games" and "The Hobbit" at the top of cinemagoers' must-see lists, according to a survey by ticket-seller Fandango released on



► Moviegoers are looking forward to the continuing adventures of Bilbo Baggins.

WARNER BROS.

Thursday. The second installment in "The Hunger Games" trilogy, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire," which is set for a November release, topped the list as 2013's most-anticipated blockbuster. "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," director **Peter Jackson's** second installment in the "Hobbit" series of elves and dwarves, ranked second. The superhero thriller "Iron Man 3," starring **Robert Downey Jr.**, ranked third on the list and is set for a May 3 release. **REUTERS**

Springsteen to be honored as MusiCares Person of the Year

U.S. rocker **Bruce Springsteen** has been named MusiCares' 2013 Person of the Year in recognition of his artistic achievements as well as his philanthropic work, the Recording Academy said on Wednesday. Springsteen, 63, will be honored at a Feb. 8 gala in Los Angeles hosted by comedian **Jon Stewart** and held in conjunction with

the annual Grammy Awards, the recording world's most prestigious honors, which will be handed out on Feb. 10. **REUTERS**

'Big Bang Theory' spawns new bee species name

"Big Bang Theory" physicist Dr. Sheldon Cooper has a buzzy new claim to fame. The geeky TV character has had a species of bee named after his favorite catch phrase — "Bazinga!" Brazilian biol-

ogist **Andre Nemesio** said he named a species of Brazilian orchid bee "Euglossa bazinga" in honor of "the clever, funny, 'nerd' character Sheldon Cooper" because the bee had tricked scientists for some time with its similarity to other species. Steven Molaro, one of the executive producers of "The Big Bang Theory," said on Wednesday that the CBS comedy was "always extremely flattered when the science community embraces our show." **REUTERS**



No nannies needed: Stars who stroll

1: New mom and dad **Claire Danes** and **Hugh Dancy** were spotted with their new bundle, son **Cyrus**, born on Dec. 17, on Christmas Eve in New York City.

2: **Gwen Stefani** uses her stroller for her purse and not her son **Zuma**. The

threesome are seen here in Primrose Hill in London on Dec. 30.

3: **Bethenny Frankel** and daughter **Bryn** were out and about in New York City's Tribeca neighborhood on Oct. 18.

4: **Jessica Alba** and daughters **Honor** and **Haven** went for a stroll near Chelsea Piers on July 26 in New York City.

5: **Sarah Jessica Parker** took her twin girls, **Tabitha** and **Marion**, went for a walk in the West Village on Sept. 19 in New York City.

6: **Tom Sturridge** and **Sienna Miller** also passed through the West Village with daughter **Marlowe Sturridge** on Nov. 25.

1: NCP/STAR MAX/FILMMAGIC
2: ALEX MOSS/FILMMAGIC
3: JOSIAH KAMAU/BUZZPOTO/FILMMAGIC
4 & 5: ALO CEBALLOS/FILMMAGIC
6: JOSIAH KAMAU/BUZZPOTO/FILMMAGIC



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food&drink

The holidays keep coming at Le Virtu

► The Passyunk restaurant is celebrating winter Abruzzo-style with an outdoor feast ► Want the real deal? ► Join them in Italy

Hot chef

Joe Cicala has done a solid job of introducing Philly to the Abruzzo region of Italy. The Le Virtu executive chef sources cheese from the sheep farms there, and he's hosting La Cottora — an outdoor winter festival — later this month at the Passyunk hot spot. If you want to get closer to the source, Cicala and restaurant owner Francis Cratil Cretarola will act as tour guides during a trip abroad in April. And though the D.C.-born chef seems more at home talking about Italy, we'd be happy to take his Philly tour as well.

We already miss the holidays — tell us about La Cottora.

This is a variation on a traditional Italian festival. It's a communal thing where



► Joe Cicala is the executive chef at Le Virtu.

If you go

Le Virtu's La Cottora festival is Sunday, Jan. 20, 5-9 p.m. All proceeds benefit Project H.O.M.E., a nonprofit that works to end homelessness in Philadelphia. For tickets, \$70, visit www.levirtu.com.

Road trip

In April you and Le Virtu owner Francis Cratil Cretarola are offering a tour of Abruzzo. What will that be like?

We go to Italy two or three times a year for menu and culture research. The tour is a good way to connect with the restaurant's guests.

We will only take 16 people. We keep it small on purpose so that it's more intimate. You don't get the same experience when you're on a tour bus with 150 people.

We'll go to some of the vineyards where we get our wine and visit the sheep farm that provides 10 of the cheeses we use.

the whole town gets together, builds a bonfire and cooks sagne — a variation on pasta fagioli. They all bring a pot and eat and take food home to sustain them throughout the winter. I invited my friends George Sabatino from Stateside and Scott Schroeder from American Sardine Bar and South Philly Tap Room to come be a part of it.

If you were giving a Philly tour, what would you include?

I'm not originally from here, so it would be hard for me to give a true, authentic Philly experience. I would stay away from cheesesteaks and Rocky, and I would include a lot of the colonial history. I love to promote the resources for food that we have. The Amish are so close by, and there are great farmers' markets.

Julia West
letters@metro.us

Shelf life

Keep the cocktail, skip the sugar

What we're drinking this week: The Perfect Cosmo, a new low-calorie flavored vodka from Devotion. (Yes, that's the same brand that added protein to vodka in the name of fitness — we're trying to forgive more in 2013.)

What it is: A citrus-flavored vodka designed to mix with cranberry juice — which isn't that impressive considering you can now buy vodka that smells like cake batter (can, not should, friends). But unlike some of its flavored peers, this one is completely sugar-free and doesn't contain gluten.

The verdict: If you're a bartender with a mustache and/or suspenders, The Perfect Cosmo will induce a Wicked Witch-style meltdown. But if you're not too cool to order a Cosmo in the first place? Make room for this one on your shelf.

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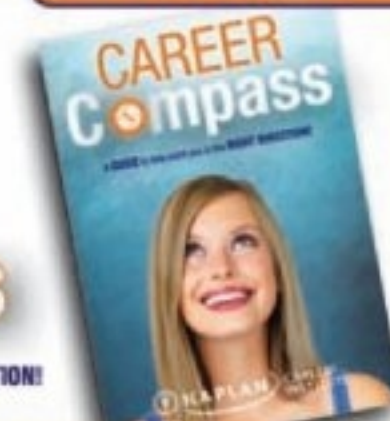
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drinks



► The longest-serving Scotch malt master shares his tips for drinking the best bottles

THE MALT MASTER KNOWS

David Stewart, known throughout the Scotch industry as the "modest man of whisky," began working at The Balvenie Distillery in 1962 (that's 50 years of Scotch drinking, lucky man). So who better to ask for a few tips on how to act like a Scotch drinking pro.

Check the age: "If you're drinking a 12, 15 or a younger-blended whisky,

I'd recommend adding a little bit of still, clean water at room temperature," says Stewart. "The water helps to open up the aromas and the flavor of it." **Glassware helps:** Stewart notes that real Scotch pros use a tulip-shaped glass, which has a small opening at the top to help to capture the aroma. "Have a sniff of it. Smell the nice florals and sweetness before sipping," he instructs. **Region influences taste:**

"There are so many different flavors of Scotch," he notes. "From the floral, sweet, honey flavors that you get from the Speyside region of Scotland all the way to the smoky, peaty flavors that you get from the islands off the West Coast. If you're looking for a lighter experience, look for distilleries located in the middle of the country."

Dorothy Robinson
dorothy.robinson@metro.us



High roller

In honor of Stewart's 50th anniversary with the company, Balvenie Distillery is releasing a special bottle called The Balvenie Fifty, which was distilled in 1962. Just 88 bottles of The Balvenie Fifty are available with the cost of \$30,000 per bottle. "Whisky evaporates over the years. So when it was filled in June 1962, this cask held 350 bottles. But with the evaporation, we were left with just 88 bottles. It's so very rare that it's worth the cost."

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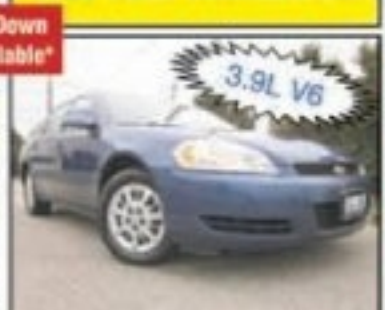
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listings

MUSIC

Reign Supreme
Sunday, 6:30 p.m.
\$10, First Unitarian Church
www.r5productions.com

Hospitality
Sunday, 9 p.m.
\$10-\$12, Johnny Brenda's
www.johnnybrendas.com

Action Item
Sunday, 4 p.m.
The TLA, \$19
www.livenation.com

ARTS

'Assistance'
Through Feb. 3
The Wilma Theater
www.wilmatheater.org
This dark comedy from Leslye Headland follows 20-something office assistants who work for a corporate tycoon far crazier than your own boss. Catch it onstage before it's onscreen — it's been optioned for a series on NBC, with Will Ferrell signing on as a producer.

SHOPPING & STYLE

Arcadia Holiday Hangover sale
Through Sunday
819 N. Second St. & 265 S. 20th St.
www.arcadiaboutique.com
Need a little boost to head into 2013? Arcadia Boutique's "Holiday Hangover" sale scores you 20 percent off all clothing and shoes, plus an extra 25 percent off sale merchandise. The offer is available both in stores and online (use the promo code "Leftovers!" at check-out).

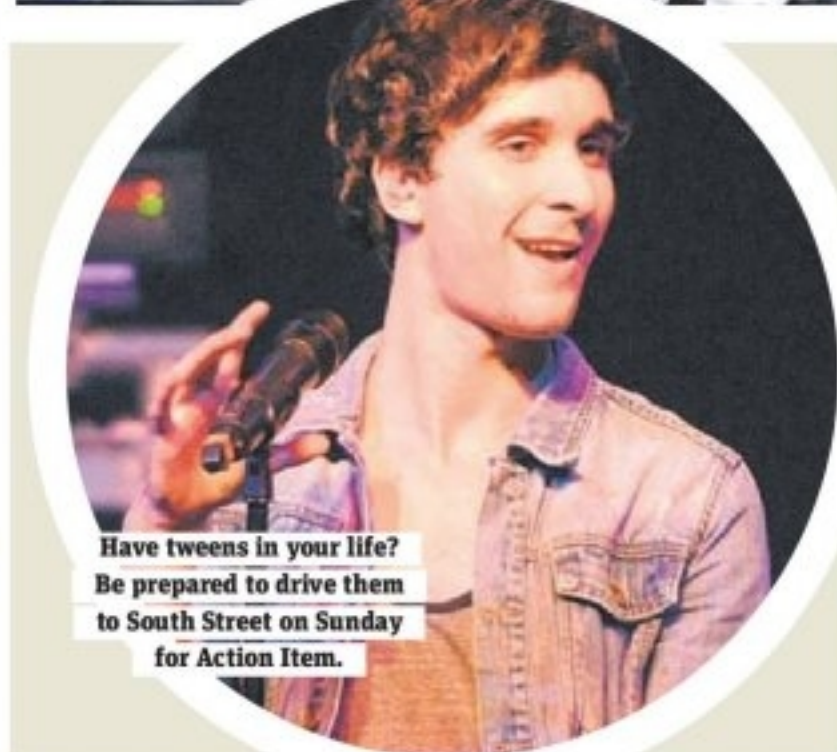
FOOD & DRINK

Grilled Cheese & Craft Beer Tasting
Monday, 7 p.m.
\$45, World Cafe Live
www.worldcafelive.com

THE RUNDOWN



"Les Misérables" is now onstage at the Academy of Music.



Have tweens in your life? Be prepared to drive them to South Street on Sunday for Action Item.

World Cafe Live and Smuttynose Brewing Company have teamed up for a noble quest: matching craft beers with their grilled cheese sandwich soul mates. Love lives, people!

Sampan vs. Winter 2013
124 S. 13th St.
www.sampanphilly.com
Just because it's officially frigid out there doesn't mean you can't grab a drink at Sampan's outdoor Graffiti Bar. Equipped with space heaters and a clear roof —

'Les Misérables'

Through Jan. 13
The Academy of Music
www.kimmelcenter.org
The new Anne Hathaway/Hugh Jackman film is getting all the Oscar buzz, but this 25th-anniversary staging of the musical holds its own as well. Cameron Mackintosh's acclaimed production kicks off the new year at the Academy of Music.

the outdoor bar equivalent of serious Under Armour — they're still serving up drink specials and bargain bar snacks. Winter, you've been warned.

Brand New cocktails at Ela
627 S. Third St.
www.elaphilly.com
Listen here, rapidly aging late-20-somethings: You're too old to go to a Brand New show at this point. You are not, however, too old to sip on cocktails named after your favorite band circa 2003. At Queen Village's Ela, each specialty cocktail is named after one of the band's hits. Extra new to the Brand New menu in 2013 are "Noro" (bourbon, bitters and orange) and "Failure By Design" (an herby mix of rum, lime and wishing you were 17 again).

FILMS

Documentaries & Dialogue Series
Mondays through Feb. 4
www.pjff.org
The Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival's series kicks off Monday with a screening of "How To Re-Establish A Vodka Empire" — London filmmaker Dan Edelstyn's doc about his Ukrainian family's roots — at the Prince Music Theater. The Monday night series continues through February.

'My Brother's Wedding'
Saturday, 8 p.m.
International House
www.ihousephilly.org
Screening as part of International House's L.A. Rebellion series, director Charles Burnett's "My Brother's Wedding" examines race and class in 1983 Los Angeles.

TV watch list

'The Biggest Loser'

REALITY. Coach Jillian Michaels returns to the gym after more than a year's hiatus from the show, but "The Biggest Loser" isn't entirely treading old ground this season. New this year is a focus on childhood obesity, with three kids exercising with the trainers and learning how to lead healthier lives. Season premiere, Sunday, 9 p.m., NBC



► Jillian Michaels returns to "The Biggest Loser."

'Merlin'

DRAMA. To kick off the fantasy drama's final season, Merlin heads to the moun-

tains for a risky rescue mission. Isn't there some spell he can use to conjure the missing party out of the wilderness? Season premiere, Friday, 10 p.m., Syfy

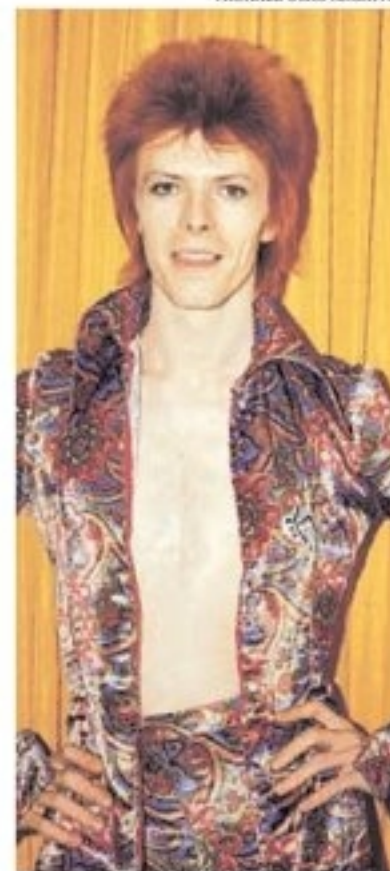
'An Amish Murder'

MOVIE. Neve Campbell stars as a woman who grew up Amish, but left the community to pursue a career in law enforcement. She returns to the tiny burg as its chief of police and is forced to confront her fears when she must solve a series of murders. Sunday, 9 p.m., Lifetime **AMBER RAY**

Songza

Songza confidence

Need some confidence-boosting songs to get your work done or score that job? It's the new year, and you have resolutions to keep! The feel-good, fist-pumping rock songs you'll find on the playlist at www.metro.us/songza and www.songza.com/listen/full-of-confidence-songza are just what you need to get some of that swagger going. We're talking about



four hours of tunes, including acts you might not know that well (like the Flaming Sideburns and Big Sugar) mixed in with classics by AC/DC, Led Zep, the Stones and David Bowie (pictured here, looking fabulous as always).

— *Songza is a streaming platform that mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems, so you don't have to. The company offers thousands of expertly curated playlists for free on the Web, iPhone and iPad. Each week Metro teams up with Songza to bring you fun new playlists as you enter into the weekend.*

Horoscope

♊ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Even if you don't seek it, your very presence is likely to command attention. Thus, you need to be extra careful of your demeanor, because the impression you make will be lasting.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** To achieve an important objective, you need to proceed in a logical, methodical manner. If you shoot from the hip instead, the results are apt to be quite disappointing.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** It behooves you to be as tactful and pleasant as possible with colleagues. Being too critical or aggressive could result in an incident that would have serious ramifications.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** If you are required to handle a confidential matter for another, treat it with the respect you would wish if someone were doing the same for you. Remember, the buck stops with you on this one.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** It would be best to keep a disagreement with your mate to yourself. Once you allow outsiders to enter the picture, complications are likely to occur.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Since your powers of observation appear to be more acute than ever, don't focus simply on others' shortcomings while totally ignoring their good attributes.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Make sure to handle your resources as prudently as possible.

Take care to avoid taking on any unnecessary long-term debt.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Guard against temptations to rehash an old, smoldering issue with another whose point of view differs considerably. Nothing will be gained except more strife.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Your frame of mind will affect how you handle pressure. Take care not to make everything you do more complicated than it needs to be.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If you've been feeling financially squeezed, it might be smart to review your expenses to see if any can be eliminated or, at the very least, cut down.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** You can easily get tunnel vision when immersed in a

project, and it could be one of those times. Flow with the majority's view instead of insisting on your way.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Premature disclosures about an important objective might be used against you. Be careful what you say to whom, and play it close to the vest.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Solution to Thursday's crossword

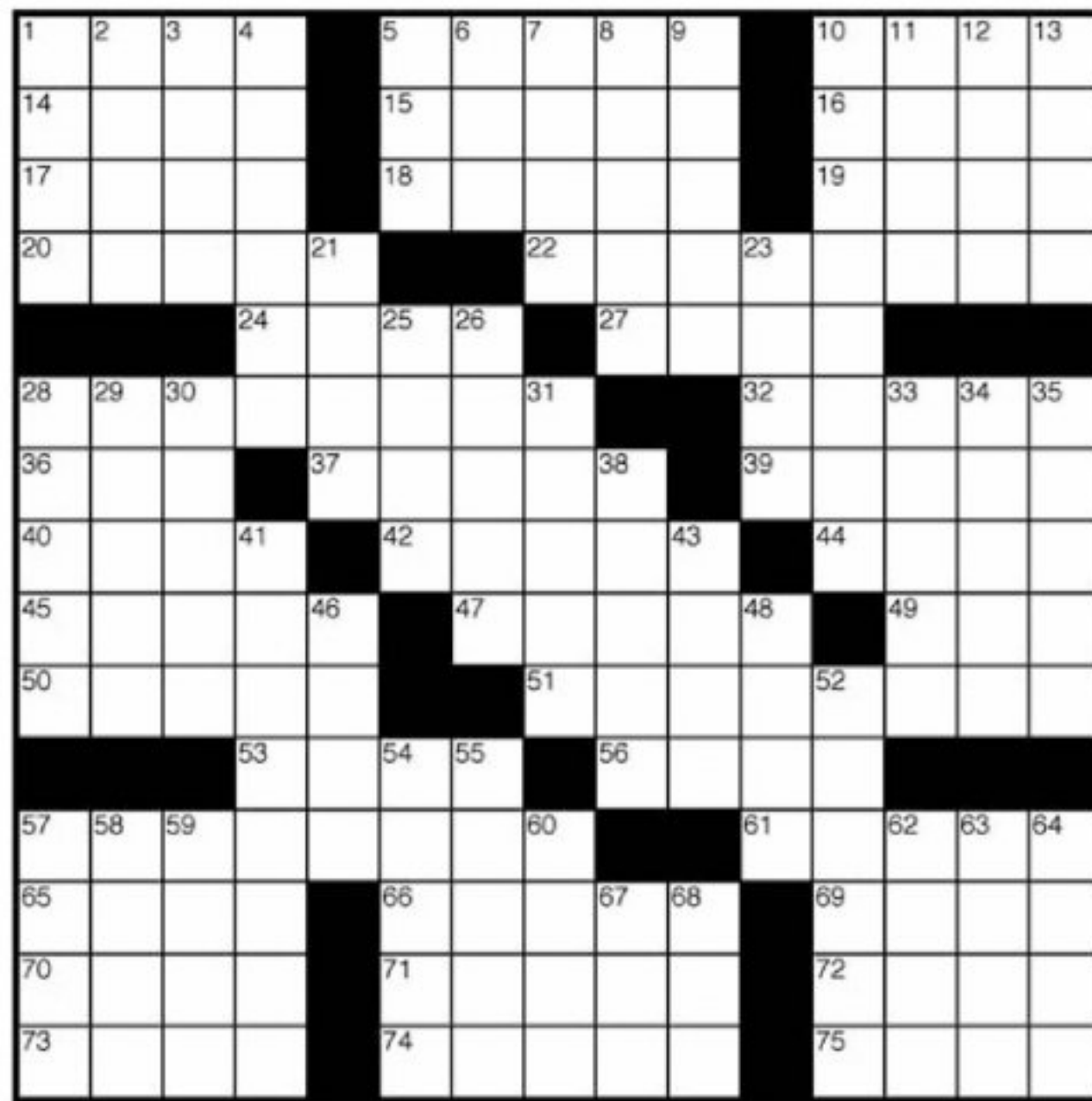
COMIC SWORD PBS
OHARA AORTA LEO
POSER GREEN ALL
PIANO CHILL
SHAVERS BEADED
CASITA STARR
OTIS QUAYS KWAI
THAI RIP BAGS
TIANG MELON AXEL
OBEYS EOCENE
CRATED WINKSAT
OATHS STELE
IDA TAPED INFRA
FAR EYING DOLBY
SRI DENSE AGAIN

Across

- 1 Ran off
5 Smaller than mini
10 Email nuisance
14 Clever ploy
15 Different
16 — pro quo
17 Viking name
18 Cope with change
19 WWW addresses
20 Pastes
22 Go over the lines
24 "Hawkeye" Pierce
27 Parliament member
28 Seashore
32 Get a grip
36 Expert
37 Hair-raising
39 Kind of panel
40 ATM codes
42 Wheeled platform
44 "— drummers drumming . . ."
45 Flurries
47 Wet behind the ears
49 Casual farewell
50 White heron
51 Force
53 Highway
56 Bygone despot
57 Knight's thing
61 Edge past
65 Name in blue jeans
66 Magna cum —
69 Wrench or hammer
70 Persia, today
71 Happen
72 Not just a star
73 Twinge
74 Hick
75 Comet's luminous cloud

Down

- 1 Lily pad sitter
2 Period of quiet
3 Hairy twin
4 Vanquish
5 Ostrichlike bird
6 "— be an honor!"
7 Burn slightly
8 Fend off
9 Garden products brand
10 Flight formation
11 Happy rumble
12 Feels crummy
13 Dept. store inventory
21 Gin-fizz flavor
23 Joule fractions
25 — Scott decision
26 Burr or Spelling
28 Expire
29 Sealing a deal
30 Operatic voice



- 31 Soft purple
33 It may be airtight
34 Panasonic rival
35 Groom carefully
38 Mr. Janeway
41 Veering
43 Cousteau's middle name
46 Ancient colonnade
48 Hurlers' stats
52 Movie reviewer
54 Brass or bronze
55 Harry and Ron's nemesis
57 Barrette
58 Vindictive goddess
59 John, in Russia
60 "Oh, gross!"
62 Long-gone bird
63 Impend
64 Jazzy Fitzgerald
67 Unpaid
68 Schubert's "The — King"

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Letters

This battle can't be won with military funding

The middle class dodged most of the bullets from the Battle of the Cliff, but the guns from the promised negotiations on spending cuts are squarely aimed at us.

The president has expressed a willingness to reduce spending on popular programs like Medicare and he's still talking about "entitlement reform," which means cuts to Social Security. Republican lawmakers are salivating at the prospect of getting these cuts.

Where in all this chatter is a mention of cuts to the bloated Pentagon budget? Numerous reports in the last couple of years document that \$100 billion per year could be safely cut from military spending, with hundreds of costly overseas bases as the chief culprits of over-spending. Cutting \$100 billion per year would just about eliminate the federal deficit.

Effective job creation is the best long-term solution to the budget deficit, and studies document that military spending is the least ef-

fective way to create jobs. Education, health care, renewable energy, and yes, even tax cuts, create more jobs than giving money hand over fist to the war profiteers, as we do now. Military spending has almost doubled in the last decade. It's no coincidence that jobs have declined.

Let's flip this script: First cut the Pentagon. Remember, Social Security has added not one dime to our deficit.

JANE SWIFT DUGDALE, VIA E-MAIL

Businesses have lots of spare cash — so let's take it!

Why is the U.S. government taxing individuals when big businesses are sitting on a trillion dollars?

They say they're waiting for some sign to indicate that it's time to invest. Isn't the huge number of people out of work a good sign that it's time to put at least some of that capital back into the free-market system? I think we could do with a straight sales tax instead of an income tax, myself. And you politicians, wrangling over the budget: There's your money. Go get it, I dare you.

DAN COMBS, VIA E-MAIL

SUDOKU: EASY

	2			7		9		
	8	6			1			3
	1		2			8		
6	3				8	2		
	7						8	
			5	1			6	4
		7			2		1	
9				7		6	3	
		8		9			4	

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

NFL playoff predictions ... sure to go wrong

The grid: We'd bet our money ★★★ | We'd bet your money ★★ | Fat chance ★



Winners

Super Bowl picks?
Answer: Packers over Broncos
By: Mark Osborne, Metro New York sports editor
Confidence level: ★★★
I'm leaning on experience. Aaron Rodgers is by far the best QB in the NFC. And why not go with the veteran in the AFC as well? Peyton Manning's comeback comes up just short.

Answer: 49ers over Broncos
By: Mike Greger, Metro Philadelphia sports editor
Confidence level: ★★★
We've changed our pick five times since you started reading. In the end, we're putting our trust in the NFL's best defense. They got injuries, but they'll be waiting when Peyton chokes.

Answer: Patriots over 49ers
By: Matt Burke, Metro Boston sports editor
Confidence level: ★★★
Homer pick! At the Pats postgame party, Rob Gronkowski opts to sit in a chair. No dancing, no T-shirt waving. Just pizza and decaffeinated Diet Coke for the Super Bowl MVP.



Losers

Can Houston recover from their slump?
Answer: Buh-bye.
Confidence level: ★★
Matt Schaub and the Texans have felt the cruel sting of reality after getting off to an 11-1 start. Now they are playing on wild-card weekend and are just four-point favorites. It's over, Houston fans (do they exist?). Gary Kubiak isn't getting you over the hump.

Can Matt Ryan win a playoff game?
Answer: Yes.
Confidence level: ★
Believe it or not, Matt Ryan still hasn't won a playoff game. You'd be forgiven for thinking he'd won a few considering the praise heaped on him all season. The Falcons carry the No. 1 seed into the NFC and they better win a game this year. Arthur Blank is getting restless.



Ryan is 0-3 in the playoffs.



Goodbyes

Will Baltimore send off Ray Lewis right?
Answer: No.
Confidence level: ★★
The number of emotional stories in these playoffs are crazy — Chuck Pagano, Peyton Manning, and now Ray Lewis's retirement. It'd be a classic story to see the Ravens rally for their leader's goodbye, but games are played on the field and the Ravens aren't winning.

Will Manning retire a champion?
Answer: Yes, next year.
Confidence level: ★
We have to note the relationship of Peyton Manning playing for John Elway and walking off a winner. Manning could do it this year, but why not pull the full Elway and win back-to-back titles this year and next and then ride off into the sunset?

Will Alex Smith be back in San Fran?
Answer: No.
Confidence level: ★★
Barring an injury to Colin Kaepernick, it's over. Jim Harbaugh chose to ride the hot hand, and Smith has been playing the part of Sean Salisbury. Smith was an overtime away from going to the Super Bowl in 2011, now he'll enter the off-season as trade bait.



Off the field

Can the Jets steal the spotlight?
Answer: Of course.
Confidence level: ★★★
There is zero chance the Jets won't be a bigger headline at some point during the playoffs than the teams actually playing. The real question is for what. I'd go with Tim Tebow and Mark Sanchez both being cut. And maybe starting a boy band together. Why not?

Will Barack Obama watch the 'Skins'?
Answer: Yes.
Confidence level: ★
There's a decent chance the universe caves in on itself if Barack Obama and RG3 appear in the same location together. Joe Buck might have a stroke. But we digress. Let's hope Obama shows.



Ladies only

Which rookie QB has best NFL WAG?
Answer: Andrew Luck.
Confidence level: ★★
Russell Wilson appears odd man out again. Andrew Luck will win Rookie of Year. Robert Griffin III will be Rookie Offensive Player of Year. Best WAG? Just like the awards, it's a close call ... however, we are going with Luck's girl, Nicole Pechanec, since she's a gymnast. Yes, gymnast.

Will Beyonce make us forget beer?
Answer: Hopefully.
Confidence level: ★
It's been a long, long time since the Super Bowl had a halftime show worth watching. But this year, instead of racing to the kitchen for beer, we'll have our eyes glued on Beyonce — and secretly hope for a repeat of Nipplegate.



Presumable Beyonce is a Texans fan, being from Houston and all.

Can't miss



Set the DVR
Here's the schedule for the first weekend of playoff action in the NFL. NBC has both Saturday games, while FOX has the NFC game on Sunday and CBS has the AFC game:

» Bengals at Texans, Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

» Vikings at Packers, Saturday, 8 p.m.

» Colts at Ravens, Sunday, 1 p.m.

» Seahawks at Redskins, Sunday, 4 p.m.

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Eagles set to interview Kelly, McCoy for head coaching vacancy

► Front office battling with Browns for Oregon coach ► Team also meeting with Broncos OC ► Reid reportedly headed to KC

The Eagles are moving full steam ahead in their quest for a new head coach.

The team is expected to meet with Chip Kelly either Friday or Saturday, after the Oregon coach led his team against Kansas State in Thursday's Fiesta Bowl. Kelly, who has no NFL experience, is considered one of the Eagles' top candidates.

Kelly will meet with the Cleveland Browns, led by former Eagles president Joe Banner, before talking to Birds brass.

There have been many question marks about Kelly's innovative offensive schemes, specifically his brand of spread offense and how it would work in the NFL. On Wednesday, Kelly addressed that.

"Anything you do has to be personnel-driven," Kelly said. "You have to adapt to the personnel



► Kelly is 45-7 in his four seasons at Oregon. He led the Ducks to a Rose Bowl win in 2011.

Report: Chiefs close to naming Reid head coach

Former Eagles coach Andy Reid is "on the verge" of a deal to become the next head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs. Reid met with Chiefs officials for nine

hours Wednesday night, according to ESPN.

The move would be a huge upgrade for the Chiefs, a franchise with no postseason wins since 1993. Reid recorded 10 playoff victories in his 14-year run with the Eagles.

● METRO



McCoy

you have. There's a lot of great offenses out there, but does it fit with the personnel you have?"

On Sunday, the Eagles are scheduled to meet with Broncos offensive coordinator Mike McCoy. McCoy has been Denver's offensive coordinator since 2009.

He saw Kyle Orton enjoy career years in 2009 and 2010, then helped Tim Tebow win a playoff game in 2011. This season, with Peyton Manning at the helm, the Broncos are the AFC's top seed.

"He is ready [to become a head coach]," Manning said. "He has paid his dues. Mike is a good leader."

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► Evan Turner and the Sixers are hoping some home cooking can get them back on the winning side of things.

Inconsistency plaguing Sixers on road swing

It's been that kind of a road trip for the Sixers. The team followed up big wins against the Memphis Grizzlies and L.A. Lakers with losses to the Warriors and Suns. Now, they set their sights on one of the NBA's best, the Oklahoma City Thunder.

And they'll try not to look into the future, with perennial powerhouse San Antonio looming.

"We know OKC and San Antonio are two good teams, but we've got to worry about the next one and that's OKC," point

ON TV FRIDAY

Sixers at Thunder,
8 p.m. (CSN)

ON TV SATURDAY

Sixers at Spurs,
8:30 p.m. (CSN)

guard Jrue Holiday said. "The last time we played them [a Sixers loss], it came down to overtime, so we'll be ready."

The Sixers knew this road trip wouldn't be easy. The eight-game tear through the Western

Conference has seem them go 2-4 with two games remaining on the trip. They'll be happy to be back at the Wells Fargo Center on Tuesday night, when they host Brooklyn. The Sixers have lost nine of 12 overall.

The biggest issue, not surprisingly, has been consistency.

"The inconsistency is what just comes back to haunt us every night," coach Doug Collins said.

That's something Collins is hoping to fix this weekend. **METRO**

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